

THE CLASSIC PRESENTATION of Spinal CSF Leak Symptoms

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...in case you're just joining us.

DISCLOSURES

- Medical Advisory Board Member of the Spinal CSF Leak Foundation
- Principal Investigator – ileak registrySM
(coming soon)
- The images adorning this presentation were taken from the web and were created by AI and/or very talented people who are not me.





SCHIEVINK CRITERIA

Criterion A

Demonstration of a spinal CSF leak (i.e. presence of extrathecal CSF)

Or, if
A not
met

Criterion B

Cranial MR imaging changes of intracranial and least one of the following:

1. low opening pressure (≤ 60 mm H₂O)
2. spinal meningeal diverticulum
3. improvement of symptoms after EBP

Or, if
A and
B not
met

Criterion C

The presence of **all** of Criterion B features or at least 2 of the features if **typical orthostatic headaches** are present.

ICHD-3

7.2 HEADACHE ATTRIBUTED TO LOW CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID PRESSURE

■ Diagnostic criteria:

1. Any headache¹ fulfilling criterion C
2. Either or both of the following:
 1. low CSF pressure (<60 mm CSF)
 2. evidence of CSF leakage on imaging²
3. Headache has developed in temporal relation to the low CSF pressure or CSF leakage, or led to its discovery³
4. Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis.

■ Notes:

1. Is **usually but not invariably orthostatic** (*worsens soon after being upright or and/or improves after becoming horizontal*)
2. Brain imaging showing brain sagging or pachymeningeal enhancement, or spine imaging showing extradural CSF. (*spine MRI, or MRI, CT or digital subtraction myelography*)
3. May depend upon onset in temporal relation to the presumed cause, together with exclusion of other diagnoses.

RELATIVELY UBRUPT ONSET

- Very often patients can identify the day that their symptoms onset.
- Less commonly symptoms may wax and wane for a short period of time before becoming more persistent



ORTHOSTATIC SYMPTOMS



orthostatic adjective

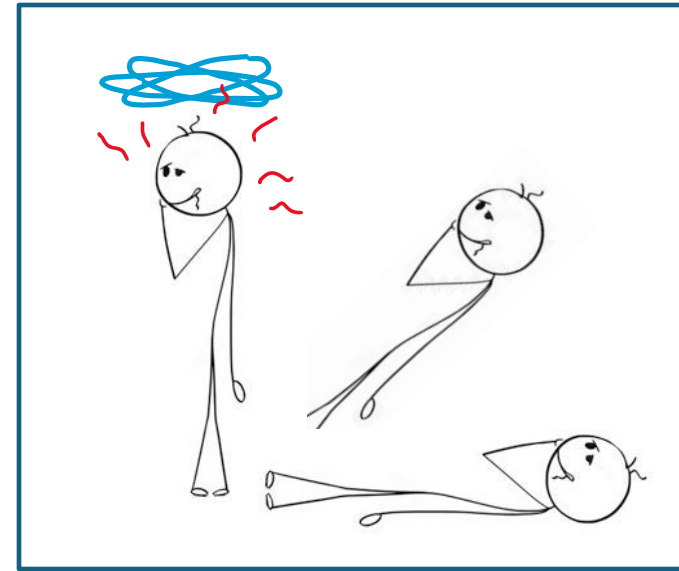
or·tho·stat·ic (,òr-thə-'sta-tik ◀▶)

: of, relating to, or caused by an upright posture

| *orthostatic* hypotension

HEADACHE / ORTHOSTATIC HEADACHE

- 70-100% report headache
 - head pain / head pressure
- Often diffuse or most pronounced at the back of the head

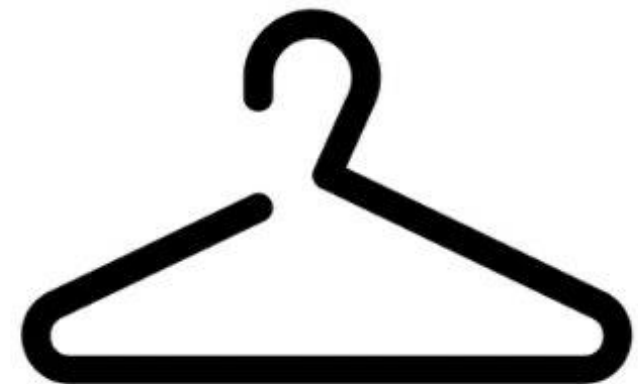


- ~90% orthostatic head pain / headache
- Relieved or significantly improved with lying down, worse with upright
- Second-half-of-the-day headache

NECK PAIN / STIFFNESS



- Neck pain / stiffness is one of the next most common symptoms reported
- Sometimes described in a coat hanger distribution





AUDITORY SYMPTOMS

- Tinnitus
- Aural fullness
- Phonophobia
- Hearing changes (hyperacusis)



NAUSEA

- +/- VOMITING
- reported 20-60%

DIZZINESS

- Reported up to 50%
- Orthostatic, transient
- Lightheadedness
- Dysequilibrium
- Vertigo less common



PHOTOPHOBIA

- Reported in 5 - 40%
- Less commonly, other visual symptoms
 - Blurry vision
 - Diplopia

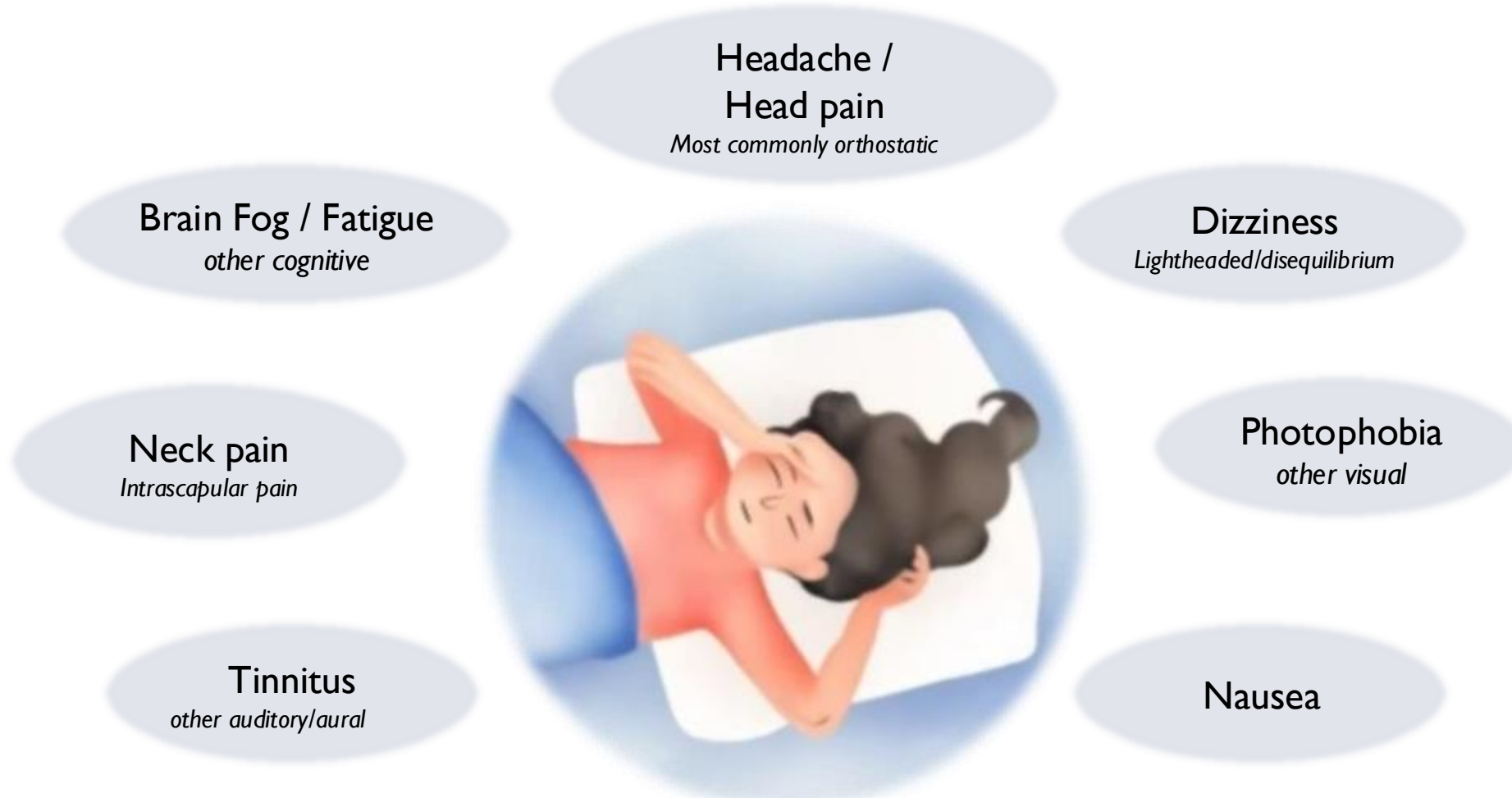


BRAIN FOG / NEUROFATIGUE

- Not documented frequently in the literature
- Cognitive symptoms and fatigue are frequently reported by patients
- Over 50% patients reported cognitive issues and or fatigue in a study using qualitative interviews to elicit patient reported symptoms



CLASSIC SYMPTOMS



REFERENCES

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